

Oldham Local Heritage List

Decision Maker: Chief Executive

Service Area: Planning & Development

Directorate: Place

Report Author: Peter Richards, Assistant Director for Planning & Development

Email: peter.richards@oldham.gov.uk

Date of Decision: 5 October 2026

1. Power to make the decision

The decision is being taken under the authorisation contained in Section 9C – Delegations to Specific Officers of Part 3 (Responsibility for Functions) of the Council Constitution for the Chief Executive to take any emergency decisions in respect of the Council's executive functions which cannot be delayed until the next Cabinet meeting.

2. Decision Sought

To give approval to carry out public consultation on the List of Heritage Assets and the accompanying guidance note on the future revision of the Local Heritage List.

3. Reason for urgency

One of Oldham's defining characteristics is its heritage, most often found in the buildings and built environment still remaining from Oldham's past. Whilst some historic buildings are considered of such historic value that they are "Listed" by Historic England, many other historic buildings do not benefit from such protection but are still an irreplaceable resource worthy of conservation.

In this context, the creation of a Local Heritage List for Oldham will help to protect those non-Listed historic assets from inappropriate development that would unnecessarily harm their historic character and value.

As such, the consultation on this Local Heritage List is a necessary next step in adopting such a list that will then be used in decision-making on planning applications and local policy setting.

Local Listing can also strengthen eligibility for grant funding from various heritage bodies to help preserve the buildings whilst maintaining a modern use.

4. Risk(s) of not taking the decision

Not taking forward the Local Heritage List will mean that information on non-designated heritage assets will be less accessible to the public and applicants, and will not support a positive strategy to preserve and enhance heritage assets through the planning and development process (such as at planning application stage)

5. Financial impact if decision not taken forward

At this stage, the decision does not result in any direct financial implications for the council beyond the staffing and minor consultation costs covered through existing revenue budgets in the service. Local Listing recognises assets of local heritage value but, as these are non-designated and non-statutory, it does not automatically require spending or create financial obligations for the Council on assets it may own.

6. Statutory Officer clearances

a. Section 151 Officer

Name Lee Walsh

Date 14 September 2026

Comments

The report seeks approval to undertake public consultation on the proposed List of Heritage Assets and the accompanying guidance note, which will inform future revisions to the Local Heritage List.

The proposal is expected to incur only minimal costs associated with the publication and display of gazetteers in local libraries. At this stage, there are no significant direct financial implications arising from the recommendations within this report. Local Listing is a non-statutory designation that recognises assets of local heritage significance and does not, in itself, create financial obligations or expenditure commitments for the Council.

There may be potential indirect financial implications for Council-owned assets included on the Local Heritage List where future maintenance, alteration, or development works are proposed. Any associated costs would arise only if such works were undertaken and would be considered through established asset management, maintenance, or capital programme processes.

Conversely, inclusion on the Local Heritage List may strengthen the eligibility of assets for external heritage funding opportunities. This could assist in securing grant funding from relevant bodies and help offset future costs associated with the repair, restoration, or conservation of locally listed assets.

b. Monitoring Officer

Name: Alex Bougatef
Date: 11th September 2026
Comments:

The exercise of emergency powers should be undertaken in consultation with the Leader or Deputy Leader of the Council. However, the Council has not yet appointed a Leader or Deputy Leader for the current municipal year; it is therefore not possible to consult them. In addition, there is no certainty about when a Leader or Deputy Leader will be appointed as the Council has failed at successive meetings to do so. For the reasons given in the report, an urgent decision relating to the report is required, and it cannot wait until the appointment of a Leader and Deputy Leader at some undetermined future date.